Climate Issue: Transport Emissions
Dependence on cars harms cities in a number of ways:

• High GHG emissions
• Increased air pollution
• Costly infrastructure
• Increased social isolation
• Physical health issues related to sedentary living

To combat climate change and improve the health of residents, we must reduce the use of cars in cities.

Disconnected street networks can “lock-in” unsustainable transport behavior for years to come

Solution: Building Connected Streets
Science shows that street connectivity plays a fundamental role in vehicle usage.

• Disconnected street networks increase the distance between residential land uses and essential services
• This results in car dependency
• Globally, street networks in new developments have become less connected since 1975
• Building disconnected street networks “locks-in” unsustainable transport behaviors.

It's important for cities to tackle this problem now, as streets have high permanency: once built it is unlikely their layout will change.

• Highly connected street networks allow for diverse and sustainable forms of transport, such as walking, cycling, and scootering
• Transport diversity lowers dependence on cars
• These forms of transport can also improve public health and social outcomes.

APPROVE
• Grid street networks
• Small- to medium-sized city blocks
• Lane ways that intersect blocks
• Dedicated pedestrian pathways
• Dedicated cycle lanes.

AVOID
• Dead-end streets
• Cul-de-sacs
• Circuitous street networks
• Gated communities
• Supersized city blocks.

WHAT CAN YOUR CITY DO?
CREATE urban planning policy that mandates new development has highly connected street networks, such as fine-grain grids and lane ways
CREATE policy that prohibits or discourages disconnected street networks
IMPLEMENT a “Cul-de-tax”, whereby dead-end streets are taxed
UPDATE city, state and national design guidance to emphasize importance of pedestrian permeability
INVEST in sustainable transport infrastructure, such as dedicated cycle lanes and pedestrian pathways.